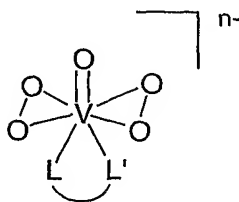
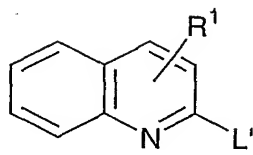
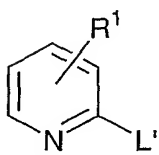


CLAIMS:

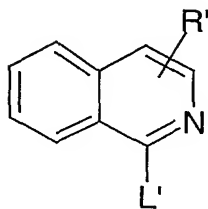
1. The use of a Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



5 wherein L-L' is :

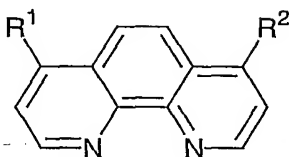
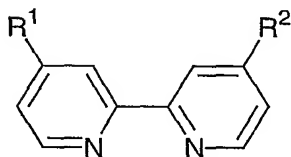


or



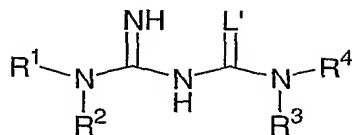
10 and L' is COO, CONR⁵, CONHR⁶, CH₂NR⁵R⁶

or wherein L and L' together form a group:



15

or a group:



wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently H, hydroxyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally

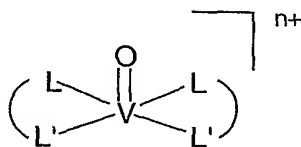
- 5 substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, phenyl, optionally substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, hydroxy, NR⁷R⁸ or SO₃, (OCH₂CH₂)_n (NHCH₂CH₂)_n, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

- 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

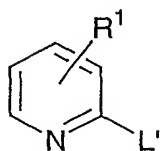
in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting phosphatases.

2. The use of a Vanadium containing compound of the formula:

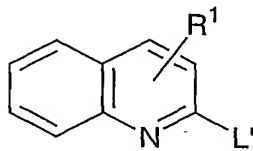


15

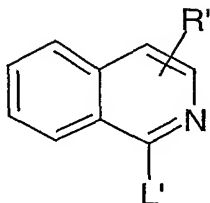
wherein L-L' is :



20



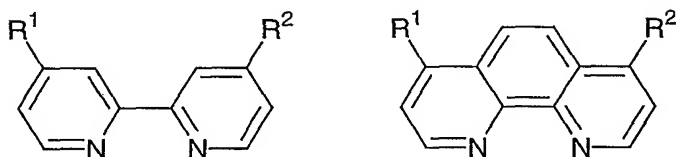
or



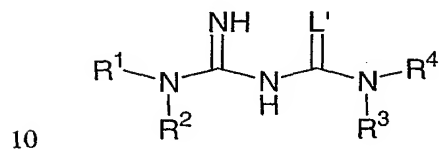
and L' is COO, CONR⁵, CONHR⁶, CH₂NR⁵R⁶

or wherein L and L' together form a group:

5



or a group:



10

wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently H, hydroxyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, phenyl, optionally substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, hydroxy, NR⁷R⁸ or SO₃,
 15 (OCH₂CH₂)_n (NHCH₂CH₂)_n, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

20 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting phosphatases.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the medicament is for use in inhibiting inositol phosphatases such as PTEN.

4. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the medicament is for use in treating diseases where inhibition of apoptosis is required.

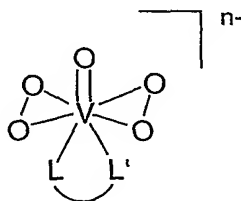
5. The use as claimed in claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is a neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's disease, wound healing, burns, heart hypertrophy, hypoxia, ischemia, diabetes, sports injuries and as an anticancer agent.

6. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the compound is potassium bisperoxo (bipyridine) oxovanadate (bpV(bipy)), potassium bisperoxo(1,10-phenanthroline)oxovanadate (pV(phenanthroline)), potassium bisperoxo (piconline) oxovanadate (pV(pic)) and potassium bisperoxo(phenylbiguanide)oxovanadate (pV(biguan)).

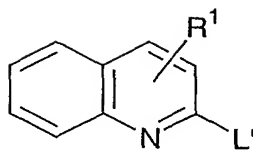
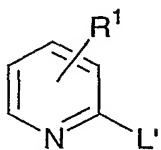
7. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the compound is pV(phenbig) [dipotassium bisperoxo(phenylbiguanide)oxovanadate] or bpV(HOPic) [dipotassium bisperoxo(5-hydroxypyridine-2-carboxyl)oxovanadate].

8. The use as claimed in claim 7 wherein the medicament is for the treatment of diabetes.

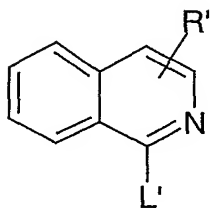
9. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



where L-L' is :



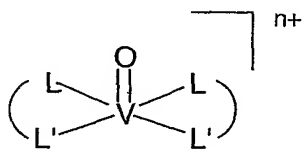
or



and L' is CONR⁵ and CONHR⁶; and

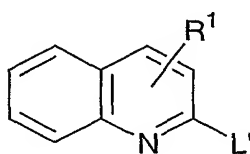
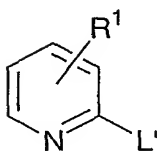
5 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₆ alkyl.

10. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:

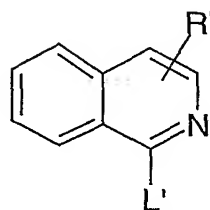


10

where L-L' is :



or

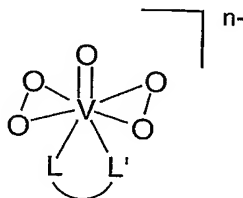


15

and L' is CONR⁵ and CONHR⁶; and

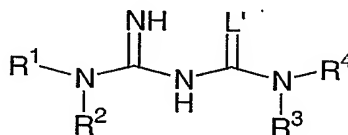
wherein R^1 is C_{1-6} alkyl.

11. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



5

wherein L and L' together form a group:



10 wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently H, C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR^7R^8 , C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR^7R^8 , phenyl, optionally substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, NR^7R^8 or SO_3 , $(OCH_2CH_2)_n$, $(NHCH_2CH_2)_n$, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and

15 R^7 and R^8 are independently H or C_{1-6} alkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable
20 excipients, diluents or carriers.